

Remarks

The second Office Action raises the same ground of rejection (35 USC § 102) as the first Office Action and relies on newly cited art (*McAllister* - US 6,215,765) which Applicant has not been given any previous opportunity to respond to. For these reasons it is respectfully requested that Examiner duly enter this response.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-10 and 12-15 as being anticipated by *McAllister et al*. The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-10 and 12-14 is considered moot in view of the canceling of these claims.

Claim 15 has been amended in line with Claim 11 and now recites a trail log comprising a list of groups of nodes through which the request has passed without specifying the routing within each group. The advantages of this arrangement are discussed more fully below in relation to Claim 11.

McAllister does not teach arranging the routing nodes of a network in a hierarchy with at least two levels and, as a result, the Transit List Information Element (col.4 lines 11-17) would need to list all of the nodes visited during call set-up. In a large network this would lead to a very long Information Element. In contrast, according to Claim 15 of the present invention, the trail log at the second level of the hierarchy specifies a group of nodes (such as node 11c in Figure 6) without listing the nodes within that group. Thus, in the example of Figure 6, the trail log would not specify the individual nodes 11ca-11cd within the group.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Examiner rejects Claims 2, 4-5, 7-8, 11 and 16 as being unpatentable over *McAllister et al* in view of *Funk*. The rejection of Claims 2, 4-5, 7-8 and 16 is rendered moot by the canceling of these claims, leaving claim 11 for consideration.

Claim 11 has been amended to explicitly recite the features of Claim 1, which was previously incorporated by reference. Claim 11 now explicitly recites the features of the hierarchy and is based on the passage of the specification at page 7 lines 19-35 and Figure 6.

The hierarchy of nodes has been more clearly defined. A first, low, level of the hierarchy includes a group of nodes. At a second, higher, level of the hierarchy the nodes within the group are viewed as a group, without specifying details of the routing within that group. Arranging a network in this way reduces and simplifies the routing information which needs to be communicated between nodes and stored at each node of the network. Referring to Figure 6, nodes 11ca, 11cb, 11cc, 11cd form a group 11c at a first level of the hierarchy. At the second level of the hierarchy the group of nodes 11ca-11cd are considered as a single node. Thus, it is only necessary to specify that a call has been passed through node 11c and not the specific path between nodes 11ca-11cd within node 11c. This can reduce the amount of processing at a node and thereby allow routing to be achieved more quickly. This can have considerable benefits for large, complicated networks. It also allows a routing across a large network to be represented by a relatively short routing message.

McAllister does not teach arranging the routing nodes of a network in a hierarchy with at least two levels, nor the steps of the recited method at each of at least two levels of the hierarchy. As a result, the Transit List Information Element (col.4 lines 11-17) would need to list all of the nodes visited during call set-up, with the associated disadvantages noted above.

Funk also fails to teach the arranging of nodes in a hierarchy and even a combination of *McAllister* and *Funk* does not teach the features of Claim 11.

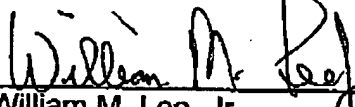
Claims 17-25 recite dependent features of the method and are equivalent to the features previously set forth in Claims 2-10. Claims 17-25 are considered to be allowable at least by virtue of being dependent on an allowable base claim (Claim 11).

Claim 26 recites a network which performs the method of Claim 11 and is also considered to be allowable at least by virtue of being dependent on an allowable base claim (Claim 11).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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